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Statement by Speaker Bense regarding Governor's signing of the 2006-2007 Budget

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – “This budget is the product of a lot of hard work by House Members, Senators, legislative staff, Governor Bush and his staff as well as people from all over Florida who let their voices be heard in this process,” said Florida House Speaker Allan Bense. “With record increases in education and health care, with its strong commitment to our juvenile justice system and our environment, and with its clear vision of our future needs, I believe this is a budget of which we should all be proud.”

“Once again, the Governor has shown there is plenty of ink left in his veto pen and, as I can attest to personally, he wields it without regard to party affiliation or leadership position. I am sure some folks are disappointed that their particular project did not survive the process. However, whether their project died in the Legislature or was vetoed, I hope everyone can recognize that this budget does an excellent job of addressing our state’s priorities while also saving billions of dollars for times that may not be so plentiful and giving money back to the people who earned it in the first place – working Floridians.

“Additionally, it is important to remember that the vetoed funds will be available to address the huge spending increase that will be needed as we get closer to the full implementation of the class size amendment as well as future unforeseen needs, such as a hurricane or other emergency.”

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